

Written testimony of
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Reference: Proposed H.B. No. 5393 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE LYMAN ALLYN ART MUSEUM IN NEW LONDON.

Good morning Senator LeBeau and Representative Perone and other distinguished members of your committee. I am Mike Morrissey, from Glastonbury. I am also the Connecticut State Director to the National Propane Gas Association. Today, I represent our local trade association members who provide propane gas service to our state. I am here to speak in opposition to H.B. No. 5393 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE LYMAN ALLYN ART MUSEUM IN NEW LONDON

H.B. No. 5393 is in many ways a "snapshot" of the Governor's Draft Energy Plan introduced on October 5, 2012. In part, this Draft Energy Plan is biased and heavily weighted to use state resources to promote the expansion of natural gas which will cost existing CT jobs in the propane and oil industries.

The natural gas industry has the resources to expand their own natural gas mains and they offer creative programs to assist those who wish to convert their heating equipment to natural gas. Today, natural is less than half the cost of fuel oil. There should be enough savings to assist The Lyman Allyn Art Museum in paying for their conversion to natural gas heating equipment and neither party should be looking to the taxpayers of Connecticut to foot the bill for a conversion that benefits only them and certainly something that they can afford on their own based on reduced fuel costs.

We believe as an industry, the state should stay out of the business of subsidizing one form of energy over another and should allow each form of energy to compete on its own merits. Using state resources is fundamentally wrong when it comes to expanding natural gas mains and the state should keep in mind its current fiscal challenges when considering increasing its debt for such a targeted and limited beneficiary.

If the local utility and the Lyman Allyn Museum can't put this deal together themselves, then it is probably not a good deal to begin with. If the Lyman Allyn Museum wants to save money on heating cost and their heating partner can't make it happen on their end, then perhaps the Museum should talk to one of our many members about heating with propane.

Thank you for your time and I would be pleased to answer any of your questions?